

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 as shown below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal display panel having a display part in its central portion except its periphery; and
a backlight disposed on a back side of the liquid crystal display panel,
the backlight including a discharge tube having electrodes at at least its opposite ends, the electrodes being disposed at the exterior of the discharge tube, at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective electrodes are disposed being positioned to be superposed on the periphery of the liquid crystal display panel and being bent with an angle with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube.

2. (original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal display panel having a display part in its central portion except its periphery; and
a backlight disposed on a back side of the liquid crystal display panel,
the backlight including a discharge tube having electrodes at at least its opposite ends, the electrodes being disposed at the exterior of the discharge tube, at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective

electrodes are disposed being positioned to be superposed on the periphery of the liquid crystal display panel and being bent with an angle with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube in a plane parallel to the liquid crystal display panel.

3. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display device according to either of Claims 1 or 2, wherein the angle with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube is greater than ~~0~~ 0° and not greater than ~~90~~ 90°.


4. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 3, wherein the angle with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube is ~~90~~ 90°.

5. (original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal display panel having a display part in its central portion except its periphery; and
a backlight disposed on a back side of the liquid crystal display panel,
the backlight including a discharge tube having electrodes at at least its opposite ends, the electrodes being disposed at the exterior of the discharge tube, at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective electrodes are constructed as a bent portion which is bent with an angle with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube, at least the portion of the bent portion where the electrode is formed being superposed in the area of the display part of the liquid crystal display panel.

6. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display device according to either of Claim 5, wherein at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective electrodes are disposed is bent at greater than ~~90~~ 90° and not greater than ~~180~~ 180° with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube.

7. (currently amended) A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective electrodes are disposed is bent at ~~180~~ 180° with respect to the central axis of the discharge tube toward the opposite side to the liquid crystal display panel.

8. (original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal display panel having a display part in its central portion except its periphery; and
a backlight disposed on a back side of the liquid crystal display panel,
the backlight including a light source made of a discharge tube having an endless-ring-like shape and electrodes disposed in a portion of the exterior of the discharge tube,
the electrodes being disposed to be positioned on an area outside the display part of the liquid crystal display panel.

 9. (original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a liquid crystal display panel having a display part in its central portion except its periphery; and
a backlight disposed on a back side of the liquid crystal display panel,
the backlight including a discharge tube having electrodes at at least its opposite ends, the electrodes being disposed at the exterior of the discharge tube, at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective electrodes are disposed being positioned to be superposed on the periphery of the liquid crystal display panel and being formed in a helical shape.

10. (original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a liquid crystal display panel having a display part in its central portion except its periphery; and

a backlight disposed on a back side of the liquid crystal display panel,

the backlight including a discharge tube having electrodes at at least its opposite ends, the electrodes being disposed at the exterior of the discharge tube, at least one of the opposite end portions of the discharge tube where the respective electrodes are disposed being positioned to be superposed on the periphery of the liquid crystal display panel and being formed to have an inner diameter greater than that of the other portion.
